

# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

5805 N LAMAR BLVD • BOX 4087 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78773-0001

512/424-2000

[www.dps.texas.gov](http://www.dps.texas.gov)



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May 9, 2019

## Via Email

Carol Gauthier  
MuckRock News  
72249-25722950@requests.muckrock.com

RE: Public Information Request for all reports and photos on the use of the DPS helicopters for the entire months of January 2019 to March 2019 in the cities of Carthage, Texas, Marshall, Texas, and Beckville, Texas and fuel info (PIR # 19-1782)

Ms. Gauthier:

The Department received your above-referenced request on April 26, 2019. The Department has located records responsive to your request; however, we believe the records may be excepted from required public disclosure at this time. We are seeking a ruling from the attorney general's office with respect to disclosure of these records, and a copy of our request letter is enclosed. You will be notified directly by the attorney general's office when a ruling is issued. The enclosed records are the only ones we believe are available to you at this time. These records are provided to you at no cost.

There was one flight that was responsive to your request which flew a total of 394 miles. 150 gallons of fuel was used at a total price of \$570.00.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact the Media and Communications office at [media@dps.texas.gov](mailto:media@dps.texas.gov). Thank you.

Cordially,

Brian Sears  
Assistant General Counsel

cc:

Attorney General of Texas  
Open Records Division  
209 West 14th Street, 6th Floor  
Austin, Texas 78701

**From:** 72249-25722950@requests.muckrock.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2019 7:03 PM  
**To:** OGC Webmaster  
**Subject:** Texas Public Information Act Request: DPS helicopter reports

**CAUTION:** This email was received from an EXTERNAL source, use caution when clicking links or opening attachments.  
If you believe this to be a malicious and/or phishing email, please send this email as an attachment to [SPAM@dps.texas.gov](mailto:SPAM@dps.texas.gov).

Texas Department of Public Safety  
Texas Public Information Act Office  
PO Box 4087  
Austin, TX 78773-0140

April 25, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act, I hereby request the following records:

I would like all reports on the use of the DPS helicopters for the entire months of January 2019 to March 2019 in the cities of Carthage, Texas, Marshall, Texas, and Beckville, Texas. I would also like any and all photos that were taken from those helicopters as well as duration of air flight on these days and areas it covered. I am requesting mileage and how much fuel and price of fuel that was used during these flights.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 10 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Carol Gauthier

Filed via MuckRock.com

E-mail (Preferred): [72249-25722950@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:72249-25722950@requests.muckrock.com)

Upload documents directly:

[https://accounts.muckrock.com/accounts/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.muckrock.com%2Faccounts%2Flogin%2F%3Fnext%3D%252Faccounts%252Fagency\\_login%252Ftexas-department-public-safety-621%252Fdps-helicopter-reports-72249%252F%253Femail%253DOGC.Webmaster%252540dps.texas.gov&url\\_auth\\_token=AA AeEUNMvzpg1vEoNJeOhjiq1r0%3A1hJoK6%3AfpPDEs6yN9gJPOx8KDUqpOBhBag](https://accounts.muckrock.com/accounts/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.muckrock.com%2Faccounts%2Flogin%2F%3Fnext%3D%252Faccounts%252Fagency_login%252Ftexas-department-public-safety-621%252Fdps-helicopter-reports-72249%252F%253Femail%253DOGC.Webmaster%252540dps.texas.gov&url_auth_token=AA AeEUNMvzpg1vEoNJeOhjiq1r0%3A1hJoK6%3AfpPDEs6yN9gJPOx8KDUqpOBhBag)

Is this email coming to the wrong contact? Something else wrong? Use the above link to let us know.

For mailed responses, please address (see note):

MuckRock News

DEPT MR 72249

411A Highland Ave

Somerville, MA 02144-2516

PLEASE NOTE: This request is not filed by a MuckRock staff member, but is being sent through MuckRock by the above in order to better track, share, and manage public records requests. Also note that improperly addressed (i.e., with the requester's name rather than "MuckRock News" and the department number) requests might be returned as undeliverable.

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May 9, 2019

## Via Hand Delivery

Attorney General of Texas  
Open Records Division  
209 West 14th Street, 6th Floor  
Austin, Texas 78701

RE: Public Information Request for all reports and photos on the use of the DPS helicopters for the entire months of January 2019 to March 2019 in the cities of Carthage, Texas, Marshall, Texas, and Beckville, Texas and fuel info (PIR # 19-1782)

**DATE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RECEIVED:**

**4/26/2019**

**DATE REQUEST FOR RULING SUBMITTED TO ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

**5/9/2019**

Dear Open Records Division:

The Department of Public Safety received the above-referenced request for information from Carol Gauthier on April 26, 2019. We believe the requested information is excepted from required public disclosure pursuant to section 552.108 of the Government Code. Accordingly, we are requesting a ruling regarding the release of these records.

A copy of the basic investigation information has been provided to the requestor. An investigation into the above-referenced incident is ongoing. Thus, the Department believes the requested information is excepted from required public disclosure pursuant to section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code, which states:

- (a) Information held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if:
  - (1) release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime.

Because this is an ongoing investigation, the release of potential evidence would interfere with the investigation and prosecution of this case. *See Houston Chronicle Publ'g Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177, 184-85 (Tex. Civ. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), *writ ref'd n.r.e.*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976) (per curiam). Consequently, the Department believes these responsive records are excepted from required public disclosure at least until the investigation is complete.

Please find enclosed the request from Carol Gauthier, the notice of our request for a ruling sent to the requestor, and the responsive records we wish to except from required disclosure. Please feel free to contact me at (512) 424-2890 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brian Sears  
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure(s)

cc: Carol Gauthier  
MuckRock News

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
TEXAS RANGERS

THIS REPORT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE TEXAS RANGERS. NEITHER IT NOR ITS  
CONTENTS MAY BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE THE AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

LEAD INVESTIGATOR:	JOSHUA JENKINS	INVEST#:	2019I-TRB-50033239
SUPERVISOR:	ROBERT P PENA	OPENED:	01/14/2019
TITLE:	MISSING PERSON, PANOLA COUNTY, LAUREN ELIZABETH THOMPSON, 01-10-2019	FILE STATUS:	OPEN
TYPE:	CRIMINAL	DIVISION:	TEXAS RANGERS
SERVICE:		REGION:	B
DISTRICT:		AREA:	
SUBTYPE:	OTHER - MISSING PERSON	SPURS URN:	CMIV50033239
CATEGORY:		REVIEW DATE:	09/09/2019
SPECIAL APPROVAL:		LEGACY REF:	
PROGRAM:	CRIMES AGAINST PERSON	SUBPROGRAM:	MISSING PERSON
CASE#:			

**INVESTIGATION SYNOPSIS**

Missing Person, Panola County, Lauren Elizabeth Thompson, 01-10-2019

**SUPPLEMENTAL DETAILS**

- S1** 1.1 On January 11, 2019, at 11:31 AM, I, Texas Ranger Joshua Jenkins was contacted by phone by Panola County Sheriff Kevin Lake in reference to a missing person identified as Lauren Elizabeth Thompson (W/F [REDACTED]). Thompson went missing after placing a 911 call to the Panola County Sheriff's Office.

**INVESTIGATION REQUESTED BY**

Panola Co So Carthage (TX1830000)  
314, W Wellington St  
Carthage, Texas  
75633

**INVOLVED LOCATIONS**

**S1** County Road 267  
Beckville, TX 75631

**OFFENSES**

**CHARGES**

**PERSONNEL**

**S1** Joshua Jenkins, Texas Rangers "B"  
Texas Dept of Public Safety  
(903) 758-1789